



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FAIRVIEW PARK STEERING COMMITTEE



Costa Mesa City Council
November 13, 2018

CRITERIA AND SCOPE OF THE COMMITTEE

- Provide advice and recommendations to City Council regarding
 - Implementation of the Fairview Park Master Plan
 - Impacts of Measure AA on CIP projects, maintenance, and activities
 - Grant applications, partnerships and volunteer activities
- Develop a comprehensive sign program for park resources
 - Guide of Interpretive, regulatory, cultural, biological, and historical
- Present an annual report to City Council describing progress on implementing the Fairview Park Master Plan with Measure AA

COMMITTEE MEMBERS, STAFF, & LIAISONS

Members

1. Anna Vrska - Chair
 2. Andy Campbell - Vice Chair
 3. Cindy Black
 4. Larry Courter
 5. Kim Hendricks
 6. Alex Reich
 7. Steve Smith
- Alternate - Cynthia McDonald
 - Alternate - Bill McCarty

Staff

- Justin Martin – Parks and Community Services Director
- Cynthia D’Agosta – FVP Administrator
- Bart Mejia - City Engineer
- Maddy Letterman – FVP Assistant
- Matt Dimson – FVP Assistant

Liaisons

- Mayor Sandy Genis – City Council
- Liz McNabb – Chair, Parks & Rec. Commission
- Arlis Reynolds – V. Chair, Parks & Rec. Commission

GENERAL COURSE

- Met monthly since September 2017 (instead of every other month)
- Provided guidance after fencing implementation difficulties
- Reviewed existing projects and grants with regard to Measure AA
- Formed concepts, expectations, and need for complete and overarching restoration plan
- Reviewed Master Plan sections



KEY THEMES FROM PUBLIC SPEAKERS

- Support for the Committee, for restoration work, and for not rushing decisions
- Support for Committee steering its own path and addressing FVP needs
- Support for Vernal Pool, Bluff, and native restoration
- Support for developing an overarching restoration plan
- Support for OCME lease extension
- Suggestion for drone use for security and patrol
- Encourage bike trail etiquette
- Support for connecting park's bike trails to regional trails
- Both concern and support for the Fish Fry in the park
- Concern for unleashed dogs, and dog waste

Committee Actions

September - November 2017

- Hosted presentations on Brown Act, Ethics, & Conflicts of Interest
- Elected Chair and Vice Chair
- Approved removal/replacement of trees at end of Pacific Ave
- Approved vernal pool temporary fencing alignment
- Hosted OCC student presentation on park signage
- Recommended staff provide Measure AA-compliant alternatives for ADA path for picnic area restrooms
- Formed subcommittee on trails



Committee Actions

December - February 2018

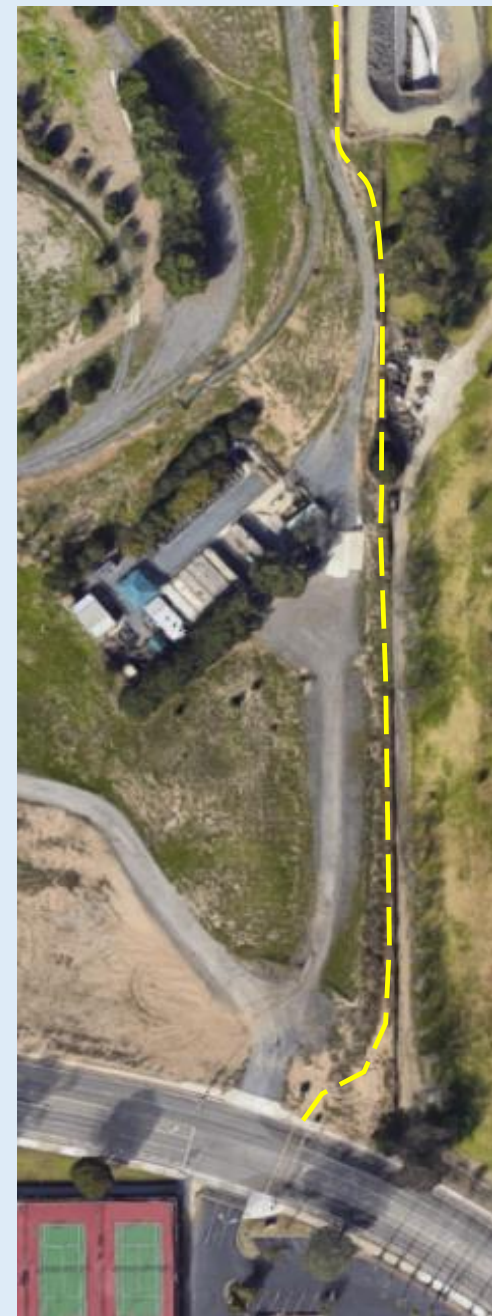
- Provided direction on Vernal Pool fencing alignment and construction/removal process
- Reviewed staff's summary of trails content in Master Plan
- Provided input for a Master Plan workshop guided by restoration
- Formed subcommittee to review Pacific Ave Connector Trail
- Recommended City maintain upper paved trails and abandon efforts for a new paved canyon trail
- Formed subcommittee to review City Policy 500-11 Fairview Park Master Plan Implementation Procedures
- Provided direction and alternatives for the North Bluffs Trails and Restoration Grant



Committee Actions

March - April 2018

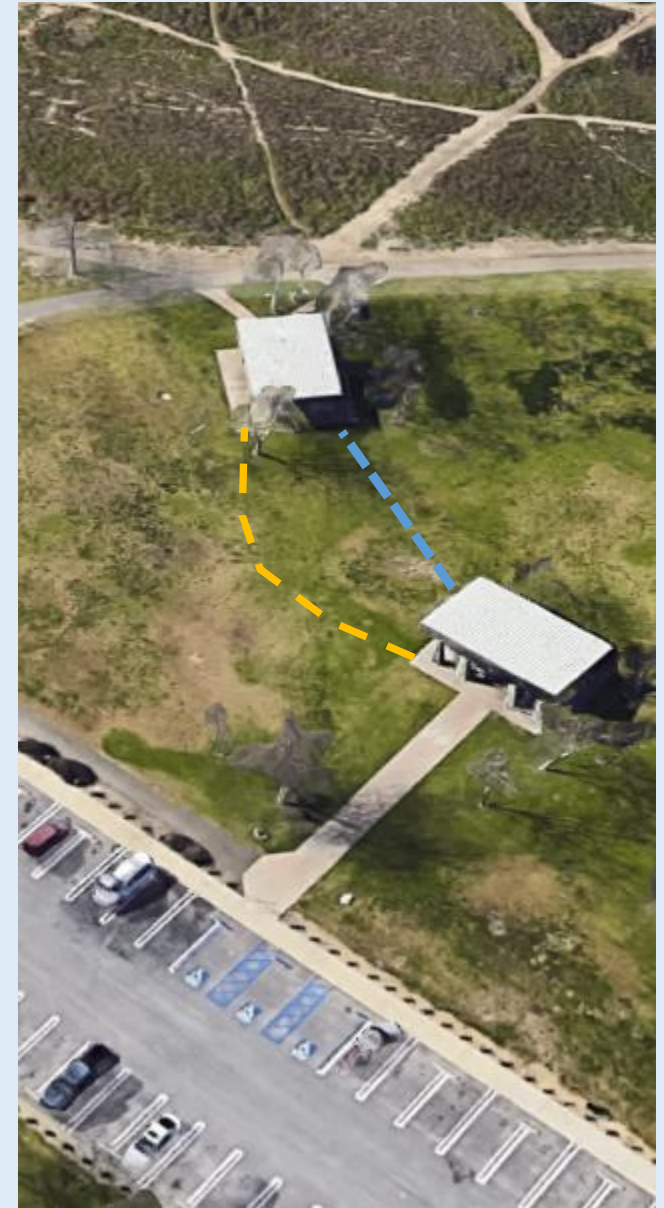
- Hosted staff presentation on the status of Master Plan
- Considered timeline for review sections of the Master Plan
- Presented Bluffs trail alternative (Estancia HS trail) which was restored as part of the project of the Love Costa Mesa event
- Hosted Archaeology & Native American significance workshop
- Obtained requested staff response regarding Harbor Soaring Society storage unit use within vernal pool habitat



Committee Actions

May 2018

- Provided Measure AA determination and council recommendation for five pending capital projects
- All would require Measure AA vote
- None recommended as designed
 1. ADA Walkway
 2. Pacific Avenue Turnaround
 3. Storm Drain Improvement
 4. North Bluff Trail Grant
 5. Placentia Ave Trail Grant
- Need CIPs' functions engineered with park restoration goals in mind

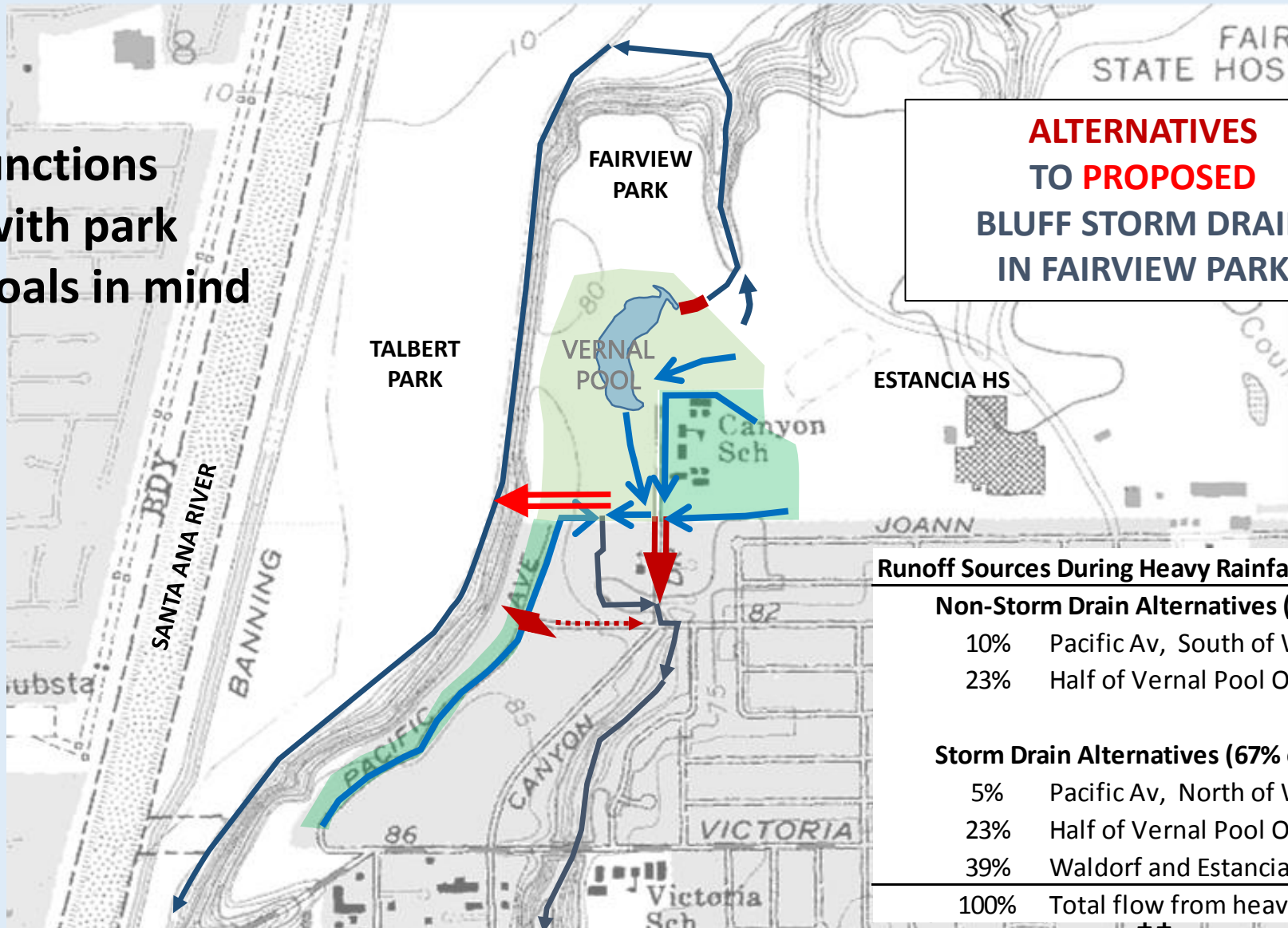


WHY COMMITTEE DID NOT SUPPORT THE FIVE CIP PROJECTS

- **ADA Walkway** – Committee supported concept with alternative construction. Opposed designed steep hardscape, not contoured with lawn.
- **Pacific Ave Turnaround** – *Not a FVP safety issue*. Will not stop night-time park use/crime. Creates more Pacific Ave traffic. Solution exists out of park.
- **North Bluff Trail Grant** – Too late on grant schedule to develop plans and alternatives to a canyon trail cutting through ORA-58.
- **Placentia Ave Trail Grant** – Paving the canyon not needed or desired, committee supported upper mesa trails, desires to restore the canyon.
- **Storm Drain Improvement** – Better and simpler options exist: manage water on Pacific Av. & Canyon Dr. Restore north canyon outflow. Bluff storm drain fosters untreatable areas for vectors, invasive growth of arrundo bamboo → increases coyote hiding. Removes water from Canyon Park watershed.

EXAMPLES OF LOWER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ALTERNATIVES TO BLUFF STORM DRAIN

Need CIPs' functions
engineered with park
restoration goals in mind



June 2018 - Restoration Workshop

- Experts agreed an overarching plan is needed and that restoration will take many years
- Reviewed existing conditions of Fairview Park's multiple ecosystems
- Presented restoration techniques for vernal pools, grasslands, and coastal sage
- Expert Panel
 - Barry Nerhus – Endemic Environmental Services
 - Tony Bomkamp – Glenn Lukos Associates
 - David Hogan – The Chaparral Land Conservancy
 - Travis Brooks – Land IQ
 - Peter Bowler – UCI

Committee Actions

July - August 2018

- Supported OCME continued land use as consistent with Mesuare AA
- Reviewed process for updating Master Plan
- Recommended deferring vernal pool boundary fencing until comprehensive restoration plan is made
- Hosted workshop on restoration, land use, user surveys, and future park improvements



Committee Actions

September - October 2018

- September meeting cancelled to focus on ongoing projects
- Master Plan Discussions
 - Maintenance and Management
 - Public Use Survey Update
- Wetlands Evaluation Update
- Approved a Committee-led Volunteer Day

2019 and Next Steps

- Advance the Steering Committee's scope to include
 - Provide feedback on management, maintenance, uses
 - Understand and provide feedback on funding, especially long-term restoration
 - Promote a paradigm shift in the basic concepts and behaviors towards support of resource enhancement, preservation, and education
- Recommend only low-intensity uses at Fairview Park
- Propose an update to City Policy 500-11
- Suggest amendments to a Fairview Park Master Plan Update
- Set goals for an overarching, long-term restoration plan

THANK YOU!

- The City Council – for implementing the Committee
- Mayor Genis – for her assistance and insight
- Cynthia D’Agosta – for her patience and direction
- Justin Martin – for his support and guidance
- Bart Mejia – for his openness, cooperation and institutional knowledge
- Park Liaisons – for their participation and encouragement
- The Public – for their support, ideas, and input